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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: P.A. Graef et al.

Attorney Docket No. WEYC111558

Serial No: 09/137,503

Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: August 20, 1998

Examiner: P. Shanoski

Title: UNITARY STRATIFIED COMPOSITE

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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AMENDMENT A

Seattle, Washington 98101

March 20, 2000

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed October 1, 1999 (Paper No. 5), please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below. Pursuant to the Request for Extension of Time enclosed herewith, please extend the period for response by three (3) months, to expire April 1, 2000.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-5.

Please amend Claims 1 and 31-33 as follows:

1. (Amended) An absorbent composite comprising a first stratum, a second stratum, and a transition zone [therebetween and integrally connecting] intermediate and coextensive with the first and second strata;

the first stratum comprising hydrophobic fibers and a binder;

the second stratum comprising a binder and fibers selected from the group consisting of hydrophilic fibers, hydrophobic fibers, and mixtures thereof; and

the transition zone comprising fibers [from one stratum extending into the other stratum] from the first and second strata commingled substantially uniformly across the composite's width and along the composite's length.

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CHRISTENSEN
O'CONNOR
JOHNSON
KINDNESS PLLC

LAW OFFICES

1420 FIFTH AVENUE
SUITE 2800
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-2347
TELEPHONE: (206) 682-8100